

Group II. Claim 13, directed to an image forming apparatus (Class 250/
subclass 208.1).

The Examiner further entered an Election of Species Requirement.

Specifically, the Examiner identified the following two figures as illustrating independent and distinct species of the present invention:

<u>Specie</u>	<u>Figure(s)</u>
I.	Fig. 2A;
II.	Fig. 2B.

In response, Applicant provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute Group I (Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 to 11 and 14 to 17) and Specie I (Figure 2A) in the present application. Applicant submits that Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 11, 14, 15 and 17 read on elected Specie I. Applicant reserves all rights to the subject matter recited in non-elected Group II (Claim 13) and Specie II (Fig. 2B).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Election of Species Requirement. In this regard, without conceding the propriety of the Requirement, Applicant has included a Supplemental Amendment herewith, in which independent Claim 1 has been amended to generically cover the subject matter of Species I and II, and Claims 5 to 7 and 16 have been cancelled in favor of the amended claim set of Claims 1 to 3 and 15. Applicant submits that all remaining pending Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17 read on the provisionally elected Specie I. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement. The Examiner indicates that Group I and Group II are related as combination and subcombination. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicant submits that a thorough search of the relevant art for Group II will require consideration of the art relevant to Group I. Alternatively, since Group II recites the features of Group I in combination with additional features, allowability of Group I necessarily means that Group II is allowable over the prior art. Separate search and examination by separate Examiners in separate applications will require duplicate work and may result in inconsistent results. Applicant further submits that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search and examine all of the claims together.; Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that all pending claims be examined in the present application.